

APPROVED-7/15/2010

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island, at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Costa at 7:40 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood

Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Chairperson's Report

No report at this time.

Agenda Item #5: Comments from the Public

Mr. Costa noted that several people were in the audience to talk about middle school sports and he wanted them to know upfront that the budget has still not been finalized by the town. Mr. Pearson went on to say that the budget has been approved by the School Committee and the town needs to finalize it and then when it comes back to the School Committee they can do reconciliation and in all actuality there would still be time for adjustments to be made. Mr. Wood noted that there was no money put into the budget for middle school sports, so if they do put the sports back in, they would have to find the dollars to support it. Mr. Costa asked the first speaker to come to the podium.

Nadine ¡V would really like to see the School Committee reconsider their decision, it is very important to the children, it is invaluable. Kids learn important values by doing sports. She thought it would be a good idea to recall teachers before July 1st to save money and then use some of the money saved to fund the sports.

Robin ¡V very important and very important to the children of the district, especially the ones that came directly to this meeting from a baseball game ¡V to voice their opinion.

Denise ¡V physical activity is very good for children, it improves their attitude and behavior, it is great exercise, even improves their test scores.

Madison ¡V sports give kids pride, it promotes good sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, responsibility, it lets you see new schools, have

new experiences, it is the glory of playing for your school!

Jack jV gives a child pride in their school and middle school may be the only time in their educational career that they can have this chance.

Laura jV kids get better grades, it is an incentive to get the good grades, creates well rounded students who become well rounded adults.

Nick jV learned to give 100% and then you will succeed, keeps our grades up, some kids need an extra boost to keep their grades up and sports does it!

Jack jV concerned about the intramural sports programs being offered at the middle schools. He thinks there will be a space issue and a supervision issue. He asked what would be offered and where would the money for the supplies come from.

Kathy jV hopes to keep the sports programs, she is not happy that the dollars are not in the budget so far. She is concerned about next year and the year after that, what about the future? She thinks the town needs to be proactive about self funding, one large booster organization, funds raised can be dispersed to the sports groups.

Brendan jV told about a person he knew that played sports instead of doing drugs, he said sports instills respect into kids, discipline and confidence too. He also mentioned how when you play sports you develop a special bond with your fellow athletes, coaches, and teachers.

Dr. Morelle wanted to thank the students and their families for coming tonight and wanted them all to know that she and the School

Committee are working very hard to find a solution.

Agenda Item #6: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills-Mr. Kelly noted that the finance committee met earlier in the evening and there were no actions being requested. He did tell the committee about a discussion that they had regarding the purchase of library books for the elementary schools. There were funds allocated approximately \$50,000 by the town, to purchase these books and he would like Dr. Morelle or Alex Prignano to find out from the town council if those funds are still available or not. Mr. Pearson noted that the committee wants to buy these books but he thought because it was so late in the fiscal year that the funds would probably not be available any longer and they would have to find other options for the money to purchase the books.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2010 Budget ÷ no information given.

C. Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2011 Budget ÷ Mr. Kelly spoke about the letter that they received from the Department of Education that would allow cities and towns to reduce appropriation to 95% of what they appropriated for 2009. So the law would allow the town to reduce their appropriation to 95% this current year and next year, of what they appropriated last year. Dr. Morelle has forwarded this letter to the mayor and the town council. Dr. Morelle has also been in contact with the Dept. of Education to get some clarification regarding measurements that would have to take place, she has also drawn up a letter to the Dept.

of Education.

A communication has since come back from the Dept. of Education and the committee has asked for a meeting with the town council and the mayor. Mr. Prignano will validate the numbers that the Dept. of Education referenced in their reply to Dr. Morelle.

**D. Discussion and/or Vote to Award Bid for Tractor Lawnmower ;V
Mr. Kelly**

reviewed the information pertaining to the purchase of a lawnmower with a snowblower attachment and a lawnmower with a trailer, but also noted that the committee was going to look into the possibility of having Sodexo maintain the grounds, or possibly the town and/or town equipment ;V we could pay the town.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 7-0.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Contract Template for Administrators

Contract ;V Mr. Pearson stated that the personnel sub committee did meet on Tuesday, suggestions are coming and we will bring recommendations to the full committee. Mr. Pearson made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item # 7: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the following approvals, it was 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0. Executive Session 5/18/10, Executive Session 6/3/10, Special Meeting 6/3/10, Regular Meeting 6/10/10 and then Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the following

approvals, 2nd by Mr. Wood and Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0. Executive Session 5/18/10, and Executive Session 6/3/10.

Agenda Item #8: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent's Performance Pay Pursuant

To 2008-2009 Contract-this was tabled at a previous meeting so Mr. Pearson made a motion to take it off the table, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0.

1. Goal #1: Creating a Goal-Oriented District ;V Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this goal, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approve 6-0. Mr. Mutter abstained from the vote because he was not a party to the process.

2. Goal #2: Collective Focus on Student Learning ;V Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this goal, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, tied vote 3-3, motion fails.

Mrs. Beaulieu-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Mutter-Abstain, Mr. Pedro-no, Mr. Pearson-no, Mr. Wood-no, Mr. Costa-yes.

3. Goal #3: Communication for Achievement and Instruction ;VMrs.

Beaulieu made a motion to approve this goal, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, 4-2 motion fails. Mrs. Beaulieu-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Mutter-abstain, Mr. Pedro-no, Mr. Pearson-no, Mr. Wood-no, Mr. Costa-no.

Dr. Morelle did have one comment after all the votes were taken and she wanted to respectfully ask that in the future, the vote occur immediately after the evaluation takes place. She was not sure how the votes represent the transcript record.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

A. Recalls-Dr. Morelle stated that there is a short list of recalls tonight because they still do not have any knowledge of the budget with regard to the town.

Recalls

I recommend that the action taken by the school committee on February 11, 2010

not to renew the employment of the following for the 2010½2011 school year,

be rescinded:

fâ Sheryl Reedy, (#253), recall to the position of Social Worker at Systemwide, effective 6/24/2010.

fâ Anne Gorman, (#329), recall to the position of School Psychologist at Systemwide, effective 6/24/2010.

fâ Stephanie York, (#351), recall to the position of School Psychologist at Systemwide, effective 6/24/2010.

I recommend that the action taken by the school committee on February 25, 2010

not to renew the employment of the following for the 2010½2011 school year,

be rescinded:

fâ Leslie Morin, (#228), recall to the position of Elementary Teacher at Systemwide, effective 6/24/2010.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the recalls, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approve 7-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on Approval of the Use of School Facilities Policy-there are no changes to this policy at this time, however, Mr. Pearson made a motion to refer this back to the Properties Sub-Committee for further review, 2nd by Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0. Mrs. Beaulieu also wanted to make sure that the policy would come back to Rules and Regs also and Mr. Wood made a comment that he hopes our facilities are being marketed correctly because they are some of our greatest assets.

C. Approval of Updated Affirmative Action Policy ;V annually this policy is brought to the committee for approval. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the updated policy, 2nd by Mr. Pedro, approve 7-0.

D. Pursuant to the R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 Exception (9) Grievances ;V 1)Vote on CTA Grievance #09-10-5 and 2) Vote on CTA Grievance #09-10-6. Mr. Pearson made a motion to table both grievances, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle made the following personnel recommendations:

Retirements

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Victoria Orabone, Teacher Assistant, at Community School, effective 9/1/2010.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the retirement of Victoria Orabone, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0.

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the

resignation of Kelly Boebinger, Assistant Volleyball Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/11/2010.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Thomas Kenworthy, Ed.D. from Cumberland Public Schools, effective 6/30/2010.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Claudia Mattero, Science Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt School, effective 6/25/2010.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Frank Sales, Girls' Soccer Head Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/8/2010.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve all of the resignations, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item # 11: Comments from the Public

Ray commented that he chose to live in Cumberland because of the total education process sports is a part of the overall education program.

Laura concerned about teacher recalls.

Dr. Morelle noted that they are all struggling with the numbers because they have not been allocated the funds to call these people back. She also noted that she can call teachers back all summer long, on a daily/weekly basis, so some teachers may not be collecting the unemployment for a long period of time. Mr. Rotella went on to say that by law, the teachers have to be notified by March 1st if they

are being laid off. Every district has the same state law and every district in the state faces the same unemployment problem ¡V it is statewide ¡V until the laws are changed we are all fighting the same battle.

Debra ¡V wondering if E-portfolio has been added to a sub-committee. Sandra ¡V stated that she is a Cumberland teacher and has been working during her prep time and volunteering her time to prepare for next year(she is a special education teacher) and she is one of the teachers that is laid off and has not yet been recalled ¡V she noted that there were six special education teachers in the audience that still had not been recalled.

Michelle ¡V very concerned that the committee even considered spending \$36,000 for a lawnmower.

Agenda Item #12: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pedro invited everyone to come out to the monestary on Saturday between 9 and 11 a.m. to join the Cumberland Community Band. Everyone is welcome! They will be marching in the Arnolds Mills Parade on July 5th.

Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the Rules and Regs Committee met and has been revising a number of policies. She also noted that our budget has been rolled back and it is very hard to make recalls and support programs that they do not have to support, when the funds are not there.

Mr. Pearson stated that all of the members understand how important

middle school sports programs are and he thanked everyone for coming out tonight and noted that it would be one of his priorities.

Mr. Kelly asked Dr. Morelle to put the results of the legislation at the state level for the instruction of lyme disease on the next agenda. Mr. Kelly would like to introduce it to the committee.

Mr. Mutter noted that there was a lot to say about the sports programs and recalls and wanted everyone to know that there are complicated factors and that they are trying the best they can.

Mr. Costa noted that the committee will take a long look at the sports issue and see if they can make it happen.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

Mr. Pearson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Mr. Kelly and Mr. Wood, approve 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony